

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-9 and 11-23 are pending in the application.

Claims 3-9 and 11-21 have been rejected.

Claims 11-17 and 23 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 3-9, and 11-22 have been amended as set forth herein.

New claim 24 has been added.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

**I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner objected to Claims 22 and 23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but suggested that Claims 22 and 23 would be allowable if it were rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for this suggestion and has amended Claim 8 to incorporate the features of Claim 23. The Applicant has amended Claims 3-7 to depend from Claim 8.

Further, the Applicant has added Claim 24. Claim 24 recites features analogous to those recited by currently amended Claim 8. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claims 3-9, 18-22 and 24 are allowable as written.

## II. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *rmccutcheon@munckcarter.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK CARTER, LLP

Date: 4/22/2009

  
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